Approved for Release: 2025/07/08 C05403357

CIA/CR/76-12969__M

(b)(3)

Luis ECHEVERRIA Alvarez MEXICO

President

Luis Echeverría is the author of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties that was adopted by the United Nations in December 1974. He believes that the Charter will reorder the economic relationships between states. Echeverría is also the author of the Latin American Economic System, an organization created to foster regional economic integration. Ever wary of the motives of transnational corporations, he secured the enactment of new laws in Mexico to control both foreign investment and the importation of foreign technology. Echeverría realizes, however, that Mexico needs both foreign investment and foreign technology, and he has tried to maintain good relations with US business leaders. He is committed to the current parity between the peso and the dollar because 60 to 70 percent of Mexico's trade and 80 to 90 percent of its international exchange transactions are with this country.

International Experience

Since becoming President, Echeverría has traveled to 36 nations on state visits and has met with 64 heads of state or government. He has also attended numerous international meetings, where he has advocated causes espoused by the LDCs. In 1975 he launched a campaign to become the next UN Secretary General. Echeverría believes that he has a [redacted] role to play in international politics, and he wants to continue in such a role after he completes his Presidential term in December 1976. To this end, he will head the newly created Third World Institute, located in Mexico City. It will be a clearing house for information and studies on Third World problems, with emphasis on LDC development objectives.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

MICRO ONLY

(b)(3) (b)(3)

(cont'd)

Classified by [redacted]
Exempt from general declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
Exemption category 58 (1) (2) (3)
Declassification date impossible to determine

[redacted]

CR M 76-12969

2

Approved for Release: 2025/07/08 C05403357

Approved for Release: 2025/07/08 C05403357

(b)(3)

Political Ambitions

A man who enjoys the use of power, Echeverría achieved his domestic political ambitions when he obtained the Presidency. He is reluctant to give up the political power that he now enjoys as President, but it is certain to diminish when his successor is inaugurated. Echeverría then will probably attempt to play an influential role on the international scene by championing the causes of the LDCs vis-à-vis the industrialized nations.

Background

Echeverria, 54, holds a law degree (1945) from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. As President he has relied upon Cabinet Secretaries and other advisers for guidance on economic policy matters.

15 July 1976

(b)(3)

Approved for Release: 2025/07/08 C05403357